



# Maryland Agriculture Data

## Weekly Crop and Weather Report



MD-CW0102

APRIL 1, 2002

### Crop Progress Season Begins

Spring showers fell in Maryland last week, replenishing soil moisture in crop and pasture land. Farmers had an average of 4.4 **days suitable for field work** for the week ending March 31<sup>st</sup> which they took advantage of to begin their planting. Small amounts of **potatoes, tomatoes, cantaloupes, watermelons, snap beans and sweet corn** have been seeded thus far. Equally small percentages of **peaches, apples and strawberries** have bloomed.

Small grains are in mostly fair to good condition with **winter wheat** rated 1 percent very poor, 13 percent poor, 33 percent fair, 45 percent good, and 8 percent excellent. **Barley** condition is 1 percent very poor, 7 percent poor, 35 percent fair, 45 percent good, and 12 percent excellent.

Hay fields and pastures are greening up with the rains received last week. **Pasture** is rated 8 percent very poor, 22 percent poor, 42 percent fair, 25 percent good, and 3 percent excellent. **Hay supplies** are rated 1 percent very short, 4 percent short, 82 percent adequate, and 13 percent surplus.

Showers have replenished ground waters to adequate and surplus levels, however more rain is needed to fill ponds and reservoirs. **Topsoil moisture** is 2 percent very short, 25 percent short, 70 percent adequate, and 3 percent surplus. **Subsoil moisture** is 36 percent very short, 43 percent short, 20 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus.

### MARYLAND'S CROP PROGRESS FOR WEEK ENDING MARCH 31, 2002 (PERCENT)

ITEM	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	LAST YEAR	AVERAGE 1997-2001
Planting Progress:				
Potatoes	11	--	1	22
Green Peas	27	--	15	23
Sweet Corn	4	--	4	2
Tobacco Beds	95	--	82	81
Fruit Crops Blooming:				
Apples	1	--	2	7
Peaches	3	--	3	22
Strawberries	3	--	2	5

### SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION FOR WEEK ENDING MARCH 31, 2002 (PERCENT)

Condition	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Topsoil Moisture	2	25	70	3
Topsoil (2001)	0	1	44	55
Subsoil Moisture	36	43	20	1
Subsoil (2001)	0	0	83	17

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Mathematical Statistician

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State Statistician

Precipitation and Departures From Normal, Through March 31, 2002

	March 2002		Since January 1, 2002	
County	Precipitation	Departure From Normal	Accumulated Precipitation	Accumulated Departure
<b>Maryland</b>				
Allegany	3.7	0.6	5.9	-1.7
Anne Arundel	3.5	0.1	5.8	-3.7
Baltimore	4.2	0.5	7.0	-3.0
Calvert	3.9	0.2	6.9	-3.1
Caroline	4.5	0.9	7.7	-2.3
Carroll	3.9	0.4	6.6	-2.5
Cecil	4.1	0.5	7.4	-1.9
Charles	3.2	-0.3	5.4	-4.1
Dorchester	4.6	0.8	8.1	-2.6
Frederick	3.9	0.6	6.4	-2.4
Garrett	4.0	0.3	8.4	-0.9
Harford	4.2	0.6	7.5	-2.2
Howard	3.6	0.0	6.1	-3.5
Kent	4.2	0.6	7.1	-2.6
Montgomery	3.5	0.2	5.8	-3.0
Prince George’s	3.7	0.5	6.0	-3.2
Queen Anne’s	4.1	0.6	6.8	-3.0
Somerset	4.5	0.6	8.4	-2.1
St. Mary’s	4.3	0.4	7.5	-2.6
Talbot	4.6	0.9	7.5	-2.8
Washington	3.7	0.5	5.9	-2.3
Wicomico	4.7	0.7	8.8	-2.3
Worcester	5.0	0.8	9.1	-2.3
<b>Delaware</b>				
New Castle	4.0	0.6	7.2	-2.1
Kent	4.0	0.3	7.0	-3.0
Sussex	4.6	0.6	8.0	-2.9

Source: National Weather Service